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WHO SETS THE FASHIONS?

Who sets the fashions, I'd like to know,
For the little people beneath the snow?
And are they working a weary while,
To dress themselves in the latest style?

There's Mrs. Primrose, who used to be
The very picture of modesty.
Plain were her dresses, but now she goes
With crimps and fringes and furbelows.

And even Miss Buttercup puts on airs
Because the color in vogue she wears;
And as for Dandelion, dear me!
A vainer creature you ne'er will see.

When Mrs. Poppy—that dreadful flirt—
Was younger, she wore but one plain skirt;
But now I notice, with great surprise,
She's several patterns of largest size.

The Fuchsia sisters—those lovely belles!—
Improve their styles as the mode compels;
And, though everybody is loud in their praise,
They ne'er depart from their modest ways.

And the Pansy family must have found
Queen Elizabeth's wardrobe made ground,
For in velvets and satins of every shade
Throughout the season they're all arrayed.

Pinks and Daisies and all the flowers
Change their fashions as we change ours;
And those who knew them in olden days
Are mystified by their modern ways.

Who sets the fashions, I'd like to know,
For the little people beneath the snow?
And are they busy a weary while
Dressing themselves in the latest style?

—*Josephine Pollard, in N. Y. Independent.*

Double-Purpose Trees.

In most cases trees may be selected, planted and cultivated so that they will subserve more than one purpose. A wind-break may be made highly ornamental as well as very useful. If composed of European larch or Norway spruce trees it will effectually break the force of the wind and at the same time be a lasting ornament to the premises it protects. On the farm of D. S. Scofield, Esq., of Elgin, Kane County, is a wind-break of European larch trees that will repay a visit of fifty miles to see. Never did a rare and exquisite painting ornament the wall of a parlor as this line of trees, tall and graceful, beautifies the farm it in part incloses. The trees are, at once, majestic and graceful. In summer the drooping branches form long waves of verdure as they are swayed by the passing breezes. Occupying but little space, it affords protection to many acres of land. It is the perfection of vegetable beauty. Still it is vastly more useful than wind-breaks that disfigure the premises where they stand and which are often composed of locust, poplar and cottonwood trees.

Many fruit trees are highly ornamental, and in raising them on a lawn or pleasure ground two purposes may be secured. A well-pruned early Richmond cherry tree is in every respect very beautiful. The foliage is deep green, the blossoms pure white, and the fruit a brilliant red. Whether the branches are covered with leaves, buds, flowers or cherries, they present a most charming appearance. By judiciously selecting and arranging pear trees, not only a supply of one of the most luscious fruits but a very beautiful effect may be secured. Many pear trees are majestic, and some very graceful. Dwarfs when full of ripening fruits are exceedingly beautiful. Several varieties of apple trees are highly ornamental. Especially is this the case with those that produce highly-colored fruit. The blossoms of all varieties of apple trees are very beautiful and highly fragrant. Few trees are more ornamental than some of the improved varieties of the crab apple. They occupy but little room, produce a wealth of fragrant blossoms, while the highly-colored fruit remains on the branches a very long time.

Trees which produce nuts are almost invariably of value for timber as well as for fuel. The nuts themselves are valuable not only for food for men but for domestic animals. The nuts produced on hickory, pecan, walnut and butternut trees are desirable for use in the family, and command a ready sale in the market. A given area of land in nut-bearing trees will produce almost as much food for hogs as when planted to annual crops. After the trees are sufficiently large to bear they require no attention. The wood of all our native trees that produce large, oily nuts is valuable for posts, rails and for many other purposes, while it ranks very high as fuel. Acorns possess more value as stock food than most people suppose they do. In Great Britain they are held in high esteem for feeding to both pigs and sheep. The oak is a liberal bearer, is hearty and long-lived. The wood of several varieties is very valuable for posts, for handles to tools, and for materials for barrels and casks. Some kinds of oak make most excellent and all kinds make a very fair quality of fuel. There is no more valuable tree than the chestnut in places where it can be grown. It pays to raise it on broken and rocky land for the nuts it bears or for the timber or fuel furnished by the wood itself. Nut-bearing trees are always useful for two purposes, often for three, and sometimes, as when they furnish good shade and serve as ornaments to the farm, are valuable for no less than five distinct uses. Nut-bearing trees generally prefer broken, rocky land, which is not adapted to the production of annual crops, or the banks of streams and lakes where the plow can not be employed to good advantage. Many persons object to nut-bearing trees because it is difficult to transplant them on account of their tap roots, which are quite long, even when the trees are very young. It is easy, however, to raise them by planting the seed in the places where the trees are desired, and by adopting this course the expense of purchasing trees is saved.

All the varieties of the ash are valuable for other purposes than fuel. The wood is used in the construction of a large number of agricultural implements, for finishing houses, for staves and heading for barrels and casks, for making baskets, for dimension timber and rails. Most varieties of the ash flourish best on land that is too moist for most agricultural purposes, and is unsuitable for the production of the better kinds of grass. A few kinds of trees, as the basswood or linden, produce a large amount of blossoms which secrete honey. A basswood forest is of great value to bee-keepers. The wood of these trees is now in active demand for materials for boxes and other packages for berries and other small fruits. The linden grows very rapidly, is readily propagated by seed or suckers that spring up around the main trunk. The young trees stand transplanting well and flourish on a variety of soils. The trees cast a dense shade. The trees when placed in suitable situations are highly ornamental. When of large size they present a very stately and picturesque appearance.

Two points should never be lost sight of in attempting to raise forest trees with a view to profit. One is to place them on land that is of comparatively little value for general agricultural purposes. On nearly every farm of considerable size there is some land too rocky, broken or moist for general cultivation. This land is always adapted to the production of one or more varieties of valuable trees. By planting them on these waste places the appearance of the farm may be improved and its value increased. The other point is to plant those varieties of trees that are valuable for more than one purpose. Before expending money for trees to set out, it is best to ascertain if they are likely to succeed in the locality for which they are designed. Large sums have been expended in Northern Illinois for chestnut, hemlock and beech trees by persons who were accustomed to them in other parts of the country, and who desired to have their old friends in their new homes. With rare exceptions their time and money have been expended in vain.—*Chicago Times.*

—The London *Times* says: "It can scarcely be doubted that all London, along its main thoroughfares, will discard gas for the electric light within the present century. The really cautious and hesitating progress of the invention must remind not a few of the equally cautious and hesitating progress of gas."

—A correspondent of the New York *Tribune* says that for colic in horses he has used for years, and never known it to fail, the following preparation: One tablespoonful black pepper in one pint of milk, and drench; it will afford immediate relief.

—The Mayor of Cambridge, Mass., declares that he would like to see it a "live New England town and something more than a literary city, suitable only for the residence of a few poets."

FASHION POINTS.

"Putty" colored hose are worn in Paris.

Chartreuse is a new shade of a golden green.

Pointe d'Aurillac is a new and fashionable silk lace.

The revival of checks and plaids amounts to a rage.

Chinese embroidery is much used for adorning white cashmere tea gowns.

The shape of the jersey is closely followed in the cut of the latest bodice waists.

Ombre ribbons are the newest in millinery, and Algerian scarfs are the latest in sashes.

Some of the new costumes for the promenade are exceedingly masculine in appearance.

Bonnet crowns of gold colored gauze plush, embroidered in amber beads, are very handsome.

Firefly necklaces of French gold and enamel now encircle the throats of the fair daughters of fashion.

The pilgrim polonaise, loosely defining the figure, will be a very popular overdress for the spring season.

The Marguerite sleeve, puffed at the armhole and at the elbow, appears on some of the newly imported French costumes.

The large "Roi de Rome" collars will be worn the coming season. They are made of white batiste and edged with ruffles of lace.

Large wreaths of shaded roses, carnations, peach blossoms, clusters of fruit and cascades of lace adorn spring bonnets and round hats.

The "Humberta" cloak will be a stylish and popular wrap for spring wear for young ladies. It has a coachman's cape extending below the shoulders.

Striped Venice cloth is commended for young girls' and misses' suits for school and home wear. The prune, green and brown shades are particularly pretty.

The fancy for sticking gilt ornaments through the hair, after the manner of Japanese ladies, is a growing eccentricity. The Japanese coiffure is eminently becoming to ladies with oval faces.

A new girdle called the Grecian cienture is likely to supersede the popular Hungarian cord and spikes so much employed for fastening the dainty chatelaine pouches to the wearer's belt.

The "Jellalabad" and satin-striped Algerian shawls will be greatly in favor for evening and summer wraps. These garments will entirely replace the shawls of zephyr wool, which are now passe.—*N. Y. Post.*

Good Manners.

Good manners. That is a homely, old-fashioned term. We rarely ever hear it now. Young people are taught style, address, how to bow elegantly and enter a drawing-room gracefully, often to the neglect of their manners.

From infancy they are allowed to be on such familiar terms with their parents and superiors generally that they grow up with a sad lack of reverence. The distinctions of years, wisdom and position are not perceived by them, and they will carelessly or rudely accost a famous judge or a learned professor, as if he were a playmate. The veneration for age, so prevalent in some eastern nations and frequently inculcated in the Bible, is, in this age and country, almost unknown.

At meals, you will often find that the children are helped first; then the older members of the family, and at length the aged father or mother, who has waited all this time in a silent meekness and submission pitiful to behold. Thus these little ones are taught that they are of the greatest importance. They become impatient and clamorous. Selfishness, irreverence, boldness and a disregard for the opinions, feelings and rights of others are cultivated.

If you call upon a friend, her little boy or girl will perhaps rush into the parlor and, heedless of your presence, interrupt the conversation with a childish query or complaint, while the mother turns from you to satisfy or console her darling, even though she breaks off your sentence in the midst. I have seen a girl of fourteen go before an elderly lady into a street car and take the only vacant seat. I have been mortified to see boys and girls possess themselves of every easy chair in a room, leaving their elders to occupy the more hard and unpleasant ones. They were not so much to be blamed for this as pitied. Their parents had neglected to train them to feelings and habits of reverence and respect.

Not long since I saw a party of four seated in a street car. They were an elderly lady, two young ladies and a young gentleman. It was evidently a mother, son, daughter and her female friend. When they left the car the young man assisted his sister and her friend to alight and walked away with them, chatting and laughing, while the mother was allowed to get herself out and hobble along behind as best she could.

If instances like these were rare I would not mention them; but they occur frequently and in small towns as well as large ones. It is probably a result of the reaction that has taken place from the strict discipline and severity of the past. A sad and bitter memory of the privations and punishments with which their own early days were darkened induces many parents of to-day to indulge their children to an extreme and unwise degree; to put upon them no restraint not absolutely necessary.

I have seen a mother, who in childhood was forbidden sugar in any form, place the sugar-bowl before her little one of three years, saying: "There, darling, eat all that you want." Another, whose little plate was supplied with food utterly unpalatable to her, and which, in obedience to the command of a stern father, she was compelled to swallow, though she ran out and ejected it immediately after, always consulted her children, even in infancy, respecting their diet. "What would you like to eat, my dear? Will you have scalloped oysters, or a piece of cake or mince pie?" The poor little thing, of course, could not decide judiciously, and, instead of being fed and strengthened with plain, simple food like oat-meal, milk, beef and fruit, its appetite was perverted and digestion impaired by improper delicacies. This is only one way in which a lack of judicious training and restraint is illustrated. The boys and girls of fifty years ago used, at least in the little towns and villages of New England, to bow and curtsy to every one they met in the street. Now they not seldom pass their elders with a bold stare and loud, "Hallo! old boy!"

We are sometimes told to be patient, that as they grow older they will gradually lay aside their rude and disrespectful ways. Probably; or at least they will acquire more or less of tact and discernment to perceive that polite manners and kind attentions to all are more politic. But these will be so superficial as to be easily penetrated by an acute observer. Gentleness, kindness, a thoughtful consideration for others and respect and reverence for superiors, should be cultivated in the child, else we may look in vain for their presence in the adult, except as they are assumed for effect—to gain some specific or selfish end. Some of the time now spent in our schools would be more profitably employed in training pupils, not only in industrial acts, but in good morals and good manners.—*E. A. Kingsbury, in the Woman's Journal.*

Some Yankee Stories.

They tell some odd stories down in Eastern Massachusetts. One of them is about a "hired man" who came home one day with his oxen pulling along the tongue of a hay-cart. He looked around astonished when his attention was called to it, and had to go back half a mile where the hay-load was left when the tongue came out and he didn't know it. A little girl, being given to great inaccuracy of statement, had, by way of warning, the story of Ananias and Sapphira read to her. When it was done she said: "That story is a lie, mamma, for I've told lots and lots of lies and ain't dead yet." A man went into a rum shop, and having had a quart of rum put into his jug was about to leave without paying for it. Rather than let him have it the bar-keeper poured it back. "Be sure and take only a quart," said the other, "for I've got a quart in there already." The fellow took his jug away with him. The other quart was water, and the rum was mixed with it all right for drinking. The man got a pint of rum free and the bar-keeper poured a pint of rum back into the barrel; his other customers had to pay for it, while he lost nothing. They are a thrifty set down there, even in the matter of rum.